THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The statutory enquiry into the accident conducted by an officer of the Directorate General of Mines Safety revealed that in an open cast working of quartzite sand (Bajri), having four benches each of about 3 to 4 metres high and 0.6 to 1.5 metres wide, when two cutters were cutting the minerals in lower two benches and eight truck loaders were loading it in two trucks positioned at the base of the quarry, a mass of quartzite sand, measuring 11.2m. high x 9.3 m. wide x 2.25 m. thick (average), collapsed from a height of about 4.8 m. burying both the cutters and five truck loaders. They were found dead when extricated, about two hours later. One of the truck loaders reported to have sustained injuries.

Had the side of the opencast workings been kept benched as prescribed in Regulation 106(1)(a) of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961, this accident could have been averted. The Enquiry Officer found the nominated owner, the agent, the manager the mine-foreman and the mining mate responsible for the accident.

(b) Prohibitory orders under Section 22(3) of the Mines Act, 1952 have been imposed in dangerous pits/quarries of Bhatti Mines prohibiting extraction of bajri from such pits. The management have been permitted to engage persons only for removal of alluvium for forming benches in overburden from top downwards to make the pits/quarries safe. The Delhi Administration have reported that instructions have been issued to the Delhi State Mineral Development Corporation regarding removal of overburden, construction of safety benches in accordance with the relevant regulations, improvement of the administrative structure and better disciplinary control at the mines.

Agricultural acreage in Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh

@@2682. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the agricultural acreage in Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh (TRIBAL AREAS);

(b) what is the extent of this land under non-tribal ownership presently in Scheduled Areas; and

(c) what steps are being taken and incentives being given to non-tribals to vacate this land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c) Material would be obtained from Andhra Pradesh Government and placed on the Table of the House.

2683. [*Transferred to the 4th September*, 1990)

Public undertakings under the Ministry of Railways

2684. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many public undertakings, with their names, are under Administrative control of the Ministry of Railways;

(b) how the recruitment to these organisations is made;

(c) whether it is a fact that retired Railway staff and officers joined in these organisations; and

(d) if so, the details of those retired officials who joined in these organisations for the last eight months after the new Government came into power?

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1747 transferred from 22nd August, 1990.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There are five Public Undertakings under the Administrative control of the Ministry of Railways, namely (i) Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (RITES), (ii) Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. (IRCON), (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC), (iv) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) and (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.

(b) The recruitment to these organisations except Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. is made:

(i) through deputation/permanent absorption basis by drafting personnel from Railways, other Govt. Departments and Public Sector Undertakings;

(ii) from open market by issuing advertisement in leading Newspapers; and

(iii) through local Employment Exchange(s) in case of casual staff on purely daily wages/contract basis to cater short-term requirements.

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. has been registered recently on 19.7.90 with the certificate of commencement of business issued on 28.08.90. No rules have been framed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of retired officials who joined in the last eight months is 68 in RITES, which includes 66 engaged as consultants 28 in IRCON, 4 in IRFC and 5 in CONCOR.

Lift Operators

2685. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lift operators on the pay roll of Government as on 30th June, 1990;

(b) whether lift operators are detailed for whole day duty on the lifts; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to do away with the post of lift operators?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. However, there is no proposal under consideration of Government to do away with the post of Lift Operators.

Fire in Ansal Bhawan

2686. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director of Estates under Letter No. Estt./8/2/AB/76-77/1064-74 dated 27th August, 1976 took possession of a flat No. 1102 in Ansal Bhawan, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi, without the consent of the owner of the flat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after fire in Ansal Bhawan all the tenants paid charges for fire prevention installations, etc. but Estate Office failed to do so resulting in premises lying vacant for the last three years;

(d) if so, the deails thereof;

(e) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the grievance of flat owners as published in Statesman of 26th June, 1990; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Flat No. 1102 had been taken on lease by the AGCW & M. for and on behalf of the President of India, in July, 1973, initially for a period of 3 years. Due to